

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 10-32 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are pending and under consideration.

NOTE TO THE EXAMINER REGARDING FINALITY OF OFFICE ACTION

It is respectfully noted that the present Office Action mailed on September 27, 2006 is an initial Office Action after the filing of an RCE by the Applicant on September 5, 2006. The present Office Action relies on Kim et al. (US 6,273,275) for the rejection of claims 1 and 2. Although this reference was previously cited, it was not relied on for a rejection, and as such, it is respectfully submitted that the finality of the present Office Action is premature. Please see MPEP 706.07(h). It is further requested that if the present amendment does not place the present application in a condition for allowance, a second Office Action be issued.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 1 was objected to because of an informality. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (US 6,273,275).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3 and is therefore now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claim 2 depends on claim 1 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 3-5, 7 and 8 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claim 4 has been rewritten in

independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 7 and 8 are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Seventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501